

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00893 110701Z

12

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PM-04 OC-06 CCO-00 OCL-00 /043 W
----- 057659

R 110600Z NOV 76

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4213
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
COMIDEASTFOR
NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA
NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI
CNO WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ASMARA 0893

ADDIS ABABA FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, ET

SUBJECT: CONGEN SECURITY

1. DURING MY NOVEMBER 9 CALL ON COMMANDER SHIBRU MESLAL, CO OF THE SMALL NAVY DETACHMENT IN ASMARA AND CO-OCCUPIER OF TRACT A WITH THE CONSULATE GENERAL, HE DESCRIBED HIS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SECURITY OF OUR DISTRICT OR KEBELE (ONE OF 13 IN ASMARA) WHICH IS THE LARGEST IN THE CITY. IT IS SHIBRU'S RESPONSIBILITY TO COORDINATE THE KEBELE SECURITY WITH THE 6TH PRICINCT MUNICIPAL POLICE, POLICE COMMANDOS, THE 15TH BRIGADE, AND THE 35TH BATTALION CO-LOCATED IN THIS AREA. COORDINATION IS ESSENTIAL TO AVOID FIREFIGHTS BETWEEN EPMG SECURITY UNITS. A USUAL PATTERN IS FOR SEVERAL INFILTRATORS TO LOOSE OFF A FEW ROUNDS AT NIGHT AND IMMEDIATELY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ASMARA 00893 110701Z

DECAMP. THE PROMPT RESPONSE BY EXCITABLE STATIONARY NIGHT GUARDS

OFTEN PRODUCES RIFLE AND AUTOMATIC FIRE (MOSTLY AT A 45 DEGREE ANGLE) LASTING 30 TO 40 MINUTES WITH HUNDREDS OF ROUNDS EXPENDED FUTILELY. ONLY ON RARE OCCASIONS DOES A REACTION FORCE LEAVE ITS ENCAMPMENT IN VEHICLES, NEVER ON FOOT. THERE ARE FEW ROVING VEHICLE PATROLS AT NIGHT APPARENTLY FOR FEAR OF AMBUSH.

2. CDR SHIBRU, HOWEVER, MAINTAINS VERY TIGHT WEAPON CONTROL ON HIS OWN MEN. HE HAS IMPOSED A STANDING FINE OF E\$5 FOR EVERY ROUND SHOT OFF AT NIGHT. AS CONSEQUENCE, FOR PAST YEAR (SHIBRU TOOK CHARGE OF NAVY HEADQUARTERS IN NOV. 75) WE HAVE SELDOM WITNESSED FIRING FROM TRACT A, DESPITE INCOMING ROUNDS FROM NEARBY. ACCORDING TO SHIBRU, ARRESTS OF CURFEW VIOLATORS IN THIS VICINITY ARE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT SHOOTING.

3. COMMENT: IF OTHER ASMARA COMMANDERS EXERCISED AS STRICT WEAPON DISCIPLINE AS THE NAVY, THE SAVINGS IN AMMUNITION COSTS WOULD BE ENORMOUS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE EXTENSIVE FIREFIGHT NEAR TRACT B (KAGNEW STATION) DURING NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 8-9 WAS, AS IT TURNED OUT, ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY BETWEEN FLAME DIV. TROOPS AT TRACT C AND THE 2ND DIVISION GUARDS AT TRACT B (NAVCOMMU ASMARA DTG 091100Z NOV 76). FORTUNATELY VERY FEW CASUALTIES OCCUR IN THESE EXCHANGES (NONE ON NOV 8-9), PROBABLY BECAUSE TROOPERS HIDING BEHIND WALLS AND BARRICADES CAN ONLY FIRE UPWARDS.
SLUTZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICE FORCES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ASMARA00893
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760420-0163
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761160/aaaabzlp.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGEN SECURITY
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, ET, (SHIBRU MESLAL)
To: ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006